

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants enclose replacement sheets of Figures 1-24 to include sequence identifiers and color drawings. In addition the background shading in Figures 1-2 has been removed.

Applicants have identified the replacement drawings as a "Replacement Sheets."

Remarks

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview with the undersigned on August 16, 2007, in which amendments to the claims were proposed and discussed. The undersigned understands that the Examiner believes that the current amendments to claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 will place the application in condition for allowance. In addition, the undersigned understands that the claims withdrawn as non-elected species elections (claims 11, 15, and 26-30) will be rejoined upon allowance.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 11, 27-28, and 33 have been amended without any intention of disclaiming equivalents thereof. Claim 128 has been cancelled without prejudice to its subsequent reintroduction into this application or its introduction into a related application. Upon entry of this paper and rejoinder of claims withdrawn as non-elected species, claims 1-20, 22-35, 126-127, and 129-132 will be pending and under consideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite detecting the post-translational modification by using a secondary capture agent specific for the post-translational modification separate from said PET on said fragment. Support for this amendment appears throughout the application as filed, for example, in claims 21 and 23 and in Figures 22 and 23 of the application as filed. Claim 8 has been amended to recite the method of claim 1, wherein the length of said amino acid sequence of at least one fragment of said target protein is selected from 15-20, 20-25, 25-30, or 30-40 amino acids. Support for this amendment appears throughout the application as filed, for example, in the first full paragraph on page 8 of the application as filed. In addition, claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 27-28, and 33 have been amended for grammar and/or antecedent basis.

Applicants have amended the specification to indicate that the patent or application file contains color drawings. In addition, Applicants have amended paragraphs and Tables in the specification and have amended the Figures to include sequence identifiers in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.821. Figures 1-2 also have been amended to remove the background shading. Applicants believe that the aforementioned amendments to the claims, specification, and Figures introduce no new matter.

The outstanding objections and rejections are addressed in the order in which they appear in the Office Action.

Response to Formal Objections

According to Sections 2 and 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Office has required that sequence identifiers be included in the specification and Figures. In addition, the Office has required replacement sheets for Figures 1 and 2. Applicants have amended the specification and Figures to address each of these issues. Applicants note that several paragraphs of the application were amended to include sequence identifiers in a Response to Restriction Requirement filed March 13, 2006. Applicants have not repeated those amendments in this response. In view of the present amendments, as well as those filed on March 13, 2006, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

According to Section 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Office has indicated that color drawings were submitted to the Office on November 13, 2003, and has required a Petition to Accept Color Drawings, the appropriate fee, additional sets of color drawings, and amendment of specification to indicate that the patent or application file contains color drawings. Applicants have filed herewith the requisite documents and have amended the specification to address these issues. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

According to Section 5 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-25, 31-35, 126, 127, and 129-132 presently stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph. From the interview of August 16th, Applicants understand that this rejection is directed to claims 1 and 8, in view of Applicants' arguments in the May 8, 2007 response. Without acquiescing to this rejection but in order to promote prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 8 to clarify that the amino acid sequence of the at least one fragment of said target protein rather than a PET, is 15-20, 20-25, 25-30, or 30-40 amino acids. Applicants submit that a fragment length of greater than 15 amino acids allows for binding of both a capture agent specific for a PET and a secondary capture agent specific for the post-translational modification separate from the PET on the fragment, as required by claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, in view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

According to Section 6 of the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-10, 12-14, 16-20, 22-25, 31-35, 126, 127, and 129-132 presently stand as rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph. From the rejection described in the Office Action and from the interview of August 16th, Applicants understand that this rejection is directed to antecedent basis of particular phrases in claims 1, 4, and 7. Without acquiescing to this rejection but in order to promote prosecution, Applicants have amended the grammar of claims 1, 4, and 7 to recite proper antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.


Conclusion

Applicants believe that, in the view of the above amendments and comments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early favorable action is respectfully solicited. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions about this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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